



STATE OF TENNESSEE  
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
TENNESSEE COUNCIL FOR THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING  
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BILL HASLAM  
Governor

RAQUEL HATTER, MSW, Ed.D.  
Commissioner

TCDHH COUNCIL MEETING  
League for the Deaf & Hard of Hearing  
Friday, May 20, 2011

Members Present: Thom Roberts, Lordy Smith, Summer Chappell, Dana Hughes (Chair), Paulette Melton (Vice-Chair), Lygia Williams, Kim Dance, Patti Bell-Norris (for Terry Smith), Margie Ulrich, and Michael Friedman.

Members Not Present: Andrea Cooper, Terry Smith, Alan Mealka, and Deborah Harris.

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## Call to Order

At approximately 9:10 a.m. the meeting was called to order.

## Review of Minutes

The Council members were asked if they had reviewed the minutes from the previous meeting. Being confirmed, the Council was then asked to approve these minutes. If approved, minutes stand as the official record of the previous meeting on February 25, 2011.

- ✓ Individual Action: Motion made by Lordy Smith and seconded by Kim Dance for the minutes to stand as the official record of the previous meeting on February 25, 2011.
- ✓ Member Action: The Council voted verbally with all ayes, no nays.  
**Motion Carried.**

## **DRS Report**

### **Patti Bell-Norris**

- All of the divisions under DHS (Department of Human Services) are undergoing an internal, top to bottom review.
- The Division of Rehabilitation Services has been working on a strategic plan for fiscal year 2012.
- Beginning June 20<sup>th</sup>, Rehabilitation Services Administration is visiting Tennessee to conduct a federal monitoring review.
  - The focus will be on the organizational structure, transition activities, and outcomes as well as fiscal integrity.
- As of March 31, 336 were released from the waiting list from PC2 and as of that date we now only have 1,101 cases on a waiting list.
- The TRIMS team has been busy training employees and is expected to be up and running by the end of August. The counselors in region 11, which is services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, will be trained the last week of August.
- There is a rehab counselor vacancy in Chattanooga.

## **Council Member Reports**

- **Lygia Williams** –
  - The Department of Mental Health and Developmental Disabilities is now just The Department of Mental Health. They are currently working on contracts, budgets and grants.
  - Ms. Williams was selected by NASMHD (National Association of Mental Health Directors and Commissioners) and SAMHSA (Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Association) to be on a national panel to develop a nationwide plan for youth prevention services. The panel is made up of 20 people nationally. She will advocate that Deaf and Hard of Hearing youth need to be included and stress that this group is often overlooked.
- **Kim Dance** -
  - Attended the Tennessee Leadership Training Conference (TLTC) in April. It was held at Cedars of Lebanon State Park and was very successful.
  - The Nashville chapter of TAD is also hosting the TAD Conference in Nashville on July 6<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>. This will be the first time merging with the Deaf TN Expo. Visit [www.deaftennessean.org](http://www.deaftennessean.org) for more information.
- **Summer Chappell** –
  - TRID's annual conference is next month (June), in Knoxville.
  - Attended the Disability Day on the Hill in March and made several new contacts.
  - TRID has two new Presidents. Jonathan Walterhouse in Chattanooga and Brooke Ray in Nashville.
- **Lordy Smith** –
  - NBDA, Inc. (National Black Deaf Advocates) will have their annual conference in Charlotte, NC on July 25-30<sup>th</sup>. Some of the Memphis members plan to attend.

- Several members of the East Memphis Quota club attend the 57th International Quota Conference in Magnolia, AR in April. They had a great time.
- **Michael Friedman** –
  - Mr. Friedman has been busy helping with the tornado victims and local clean-up efforts, and making sure the Deaf and Hard of Hearing were being taken care of.
  - At a recent meeting Mr. Friedman got to meet the Director of All Access Service Center in Chattanooga. She and Mr. Friedman worked together to make sure there are interpreters at all regional and local council meetings.
- **Paulette Melton** –
  - A good website to visit: Tennessee Homeless Solutions – 1-866-307-5469.
  - The Payment Authorization Procedures for Interpreters document has the wrong number for the Jackson center. Ms. Melton will have the corrections made to this document.

## Executive Director's Report

### March

- 3 Deaf Career Day – Nashville Public Library
- 9 Disability Day on the Hill – Voting Machines
- 18 TRC-Smyrna Evaluation Consultation
- 23 UT Deafness Focus Advisory Board Teleconference (OTD)
- 28 Meeting with Joey Trapani (National Deaf Academy) and Tim Maguigan (Kidlink Treatment Services) regarding mental health needs of the Deaf Community

### April

- 5 Employee Assistance Program Fair-Booth for TN Suicide Prevention Network
- 8 Group Meeting with DHS Deputy Commissioner Cawthon and DHS Commissioner Hatter
- 9 WellFest – Nashville Public Library
- 13 Early Alerting and Resource Services Meeting
- 15 Southeastern Regional Institute on Deafness 2012 Planning Committee meeting
- 15 Chattanooga Center Visit
- 29 TSPN 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Celebration/Symposium

### May

- 3 Nashville Chapter, “Hands and Voices” Support Group for Parents/Siblings
- 11 EARS Meeting
- 12 TSPN Regional Meeting
- 13 TREDS Advisory Council Meeting

Other activities include, but not limited to, providing assistance in obtaining hearing aids, providing advocacy, and serving on the Deaf Career Day Planning Committee.

## Center Director Reports

- **CCDHH – Jessica Harrison** -
  - CCDHH has provided 20.25 hours of community service interpreting for various appointments.
  - CCDHH is working with Tusculum College and a long term health care facility to promote our free in-service trainings.
  - CCDHH, in association with NETRID, hosted a cognitive processing workshop with Marie Griffin. Forty-three interpreters and students participated.
- **KCD – Bob Rittenhouse** -
  - KCD held its annual Deaf Community Workshop on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Larry Hutsell from the Department of Health spoke on Emergency Preparedness and Officer Travis Harvey and Lt. Gordon Gwathhney of the Knoxville Police Department spoke on KPD police practices. A lively Q and A followed their presentations. Eighty people attended the workshop.
  - The Deaf Senior Citizens of KCD attended a workshop and site visit of the local 911 call center. A group of the deaf members and 911 officials will meet to discuss ways to improve services to the Deaf during emergencies.
  - KCD held its annual year-end party for the Deaf Youth of TSD and public school deaf students on May 3<sup>rd</sup>. Seventy-five high school students attended.
- **JCIL – Amy Cone** –
  - JCIL developed materials for the community to get JCIL’s name out there for all medical, emergency, and legal personnel. The center started dispersing materials and has had some positive feedback already.
  - The center started sign language class on March 10<sup>th</sup> and we have 17 participants. This is our biggest class ever. Classes are working with a new curriculum and the class is going well. They will wrap up on May 26 and will be followed by a silent dinner.
- **Bridges – Sallie Hussey**-
  - Donice Kaufman, wellness director, has gathered top minds in emergency preparedness to make sure that not only is the Deaf and hard of hearing community ready for the next natural disaster, but also, and maybe more importantly, so are Nashville’s first responders.
  - The fantastic summer camp series will both end this fiscal year and start the next. It includes Camp Rise and Sign, our overnight “summer camp” for children with any degree of hearing loss at Camp Marymount. Two weeks of Camp Sign Me Up will be held for children who want to learn American Sign Language, and finally, Camp Jump Start (a new camp) kicks off for Deaf, hard of hearing or hearing children who want to improve their English and language skills.
- **Deaf Connect – Teresa Wilson** -
  - Deaf Connect has been undergoing some upgrades and has new computers, a new phone system, a new flat screen TV and new fencing.

- Deaf Connect is trying to arrange for DLAC to be at our center on a regular basis. The staff is also working with the hospitals to increase awareness.
  - The center is trying to increase the skill level of interpreters by offering workshops and CEU's.
- **PFCA – Todd Bragg** –
- Sharon Bryant, Job Placement Coordinator, is now helping clients with resource assistance, as time allows. Ms. Bryant has also been instrumental in acquiring mental health services by a therapist/interpreter, via video relay (facilitated through Joe Johnson Mental Health Center).
  - The department has now installed a client-friendly computer station, in order to assist clients with computer/Internet access – many clients have already taken advantage of this much needed resource.

## Committee Reports

- **Communication Committee**, Summer Chappell – The committee has been working hard to find all the information that will help us draft a bill to present to the Senate for licensure for interpreters. The committee reviewed laws from Missouri, Kentucky and Alabama to compare those. The committee decided to mimic Alabama's as a base for our draft.
- **Legislative Committee**, Kim Dance – Sharon Bryant and Ms. Dance went to Disability Day on the Hill and met several Senators while there. They passed along information regarding mental health services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing to the Senators and will be following up on that. They also plan to attend the next Disability Day.
- **Education Committee**, Deborah Harris – No Report
- **Social Welfare**, Lygia Williams –
- Propose we seek a volunteer from each region to attend health fairs and let Deaf students know the need for a volunteer.
    - a. Pursue a scholarship for a deaf student.
    - b. Attend and present at the Children's Council on Child Mental Health.
    - c. Present at State of Child Conference (October, must request now).
    - d. Present to the Select Committee on Children and Youth regarding mental health and Deaf youth.
    - e. Present to Mental Health Councils statewide.
    - f. Develop a curriculum/self study on mental health and the deaf, seek TAMHO's support or collaboration (They have on line training).
    - g. Disseminate/show CD of Suicide gatekeeper training

### Needs

- A. develop a standard presentation
- B. Do PP
- C. Schedule/research/call
- D. Social marketing Plan

## Announcements

**Sandy Cohen, Library Services for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing:** Deaf Career Day/WellFest was held at the Library in April. 150 people attended the event. Four different Deaf and Hard of Hearing speakers spoke about their jobs.

WellFest was on April 9. It was the third annual event and between 250 and 300 people attended. It was a great success. Next year's date is set for March 24, 2012.

**Joseph Ochoa, EARS (Emergency Awareness and Readiness Services):** EARS provides awareness trainings for the fire department, police officers and anyone that is a first responder. Mr. Ochoa has been working with the Franklin Fire Department and various other agencies and individuals to help distribute fire alarms to the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. EARS is also working with 16 other counties, including Davidson.

**Dana Hughes, Council Chair:** The American Association of the Deaf-Blind is holding their symposium July 19-21.

## Old Business/New Business

- **New:**
  - There was no new business.
- **Old:**
  - Nominations for council members are still pending.
  - TCDHH will elect new officers at the August 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.
  - Council meetings are set for the following dates:
    - August 12, 2011
    - November 4, 2011

## Meeting Adjourned

Meeting was adjourned by Chairman, Dana Hughes at 12:12 P.M.